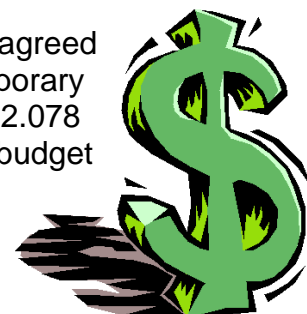




2008 BUDGET AFFECTS OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE CORRECTIONS BUDGET REDUCED BY \$62 MILLION

The Michigan Legislature and Governor Jennifer M. Granholm have agreed on a State budget for fiscal year 2008, after operating under a temporary continuation budget for the past month. Corrections will receive \$2.078 billion dollars of the \$43.5 billion State budget. The Corrections budget involves a careful balance of spending increases, targeted cuts, and further studies to determine areas of cost savings. When possible, those savings will be re-invested into programs that enhance public safety and offender success.



Some of the significant components include:

- \$20 million for the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative;
- \$36.8 million savings from closing Southern Michigan Correctional Facility;
- \$9.3 million savings from closing 7 Block of Egeler Reception and Guidance Center;
- \$4.5 million savings from the Camp Manistique closure;
- \$1.8 million savings from the Riverside Correctional Facility closure and re-opening of the Michigan Reformatory;

See **BUDGET** Page 3

PARR HIGHWAY PRISONERS GROW GIGANTIC GOURD

What began as a challenge to grow a pumpkin to surpass a 275 pound giant grown at Chippewa Correctional Facility has become an overwhelming success for prison greenhouse workers at Parr Highway Correctional Facility (ATF). At 711 pounds and more than 11 feet in circumference, this giant gourd gains attention of prisoners, staff, and the public as it makes its way to local schools and festivals in southeast Michigan. The pumpkin gained an average of 10.3 lbs per day during the 69-day growth cycle.

Beth Tuckerman, program coordinator for horticulture, is thrilled to be able to share the pumpkin growing experience by sharing the giant pumpkin growing process. "It's been our experience that every question asked and answered is something learned," said Tuckerman. It's great to see the community impact one giant pumpkin can have.

See **PUMPKIN**, Page 3

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LORI FARMER BIDS MDOC FAREWELL

I think I've said this to just about everyone, but I want to go on record and say again that working for DOC has been one of my absolute favorite jobs. You all are a wonderful group of people and I wish you nothing but God's best as you go forward. As for me, well....I'm STILL smiling!

- Lori Farmer

John Cordell has been asked to continue publishing FYI until a new public information specialist has been chosen to replace Lori. For the past nine years, John has worked in the New Employee Training Section as a training officer and curriculum specialist. He currently edits "*MCA Today*," the newsletter of the Michigan Corrections Association. John is also the commander of the Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard and MCA Vice President. If you have anything you would like to see in FYI, please send it to John at cordelj@michigan.gov.

RIVERSIDE TO BE "REFORMED"

Many Riverside Correctional Facility (RCF) staff and prisoners will be moving to the Michigan Reformatory (RMI) beginning the week of November 4, 2007. Most staff will be placed at RMI, while others will be placed in the Ionia complex or to another facility within the Department. RCF will be closed but Region II Administration staff will remain in the Administration Building. There are currently no plans to re-open the prison and former state psychiatric hospital located in Ionia. Extensive renovations would be necessary prior to any further use by the MDOC. The Reformatory, closed in 2002 when Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility opened, has received extensive physical plant renovations including electrical, plumbing, and security system upgrades. When it re-opens, The Reformatory will regain its status as Michigan's oldest prison.



Michigan Reformatory - RMI

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CLOSURE UPDATE

The U.S. District Court denied the Plaintiffs' "Motion for a Stay of the JMF Transfer and Closure Plan" on October 26, 2007. As a result of this action, the remaining 167 prisoners at JMF will be transferred to other facilities by the end of Friday, November 2, 2007. Staff at JMF will spend the following two weeks preparing the facility for closure.

Health care is the primary issue remaining in the Hadix litigation. Closing JMF will have the incidental benefit of allowing the MDOC to re-align its health care resources at several facilities, to improve the balance between prisoner patients and health care staff.

Once the closure is complete, remaining staff will be re-assigned into vacant positions as close to their current worksite as possible. The Department continues to do everything possible to minimize the impact these closures have on staff and their families.

**BUDGET**, from Page 1

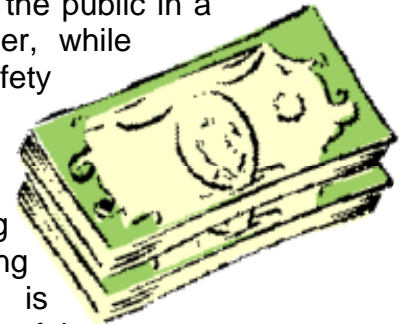
- \$5.4 million savings by delaying the opening of various prison beds throughout the system;
- \$5.8 million savings in revision of staffing charts;
- \$2.63 million savings through continued regionalization of certain functions at the Kinross, Ionia, and Jackson prison complexes;
- 500 active GPS units and three new electronic monitoring unit staff to track high-risk parolees and probationers;
- 33 new parole/probation officers to supervise offenders in the community;
- Addition of 788 beds for low-security level offenders;
- 650 new corrections officers;

The legislature has also required several reports or studies such as:

- Details on the global positioning tether program;
- Implementation of the kiosk reporting stations for parolees and probationers;
- The development and implementation of a plan to make all facilities and camps tobacco free;
- Information following the receipt of the Auditor General performance audit on offender transportation;
- Information following the receipt of the Auditor General performance audit on prison food service.

While these budget changes will affect employees department-wide, the MDOC will do all it can to minimize the impact. Many of the affected employees will be transferred to facilities in their region, while a few may have to relocate to maintain employment. Qualification reviews will be performed on employees who cannot be placed, to see if they qualify for another position within the Department.

This budget allows the Department to continue protecting the public in a cost-efficient manner, while maintaining the safety and security of our correctional facilities. The key to safely continuing the down-sizing corrections is continued successful implementation of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative. This program will better prepare prisoners to be productive members of society. The Department also continues to focus on saving expensive prison beds for our most serious and violent offenders.



Daylight Savings Time ends on November 4, 2007 at 2:00 a.m. Make sure to check your Groupwise Calendar and change the batteries in your smoke detector.





WARDEN SHUFFLE WILL CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Effective November 18, 2007, the following wardens will be on the move:

- Warden Blaine C. Lafler will be reassigned to the Boyer Road/Carson City correctional facilities from the St. Louis Correctional complex.
- Warden Thomas K. Bell will be reassigned to the Gus Harrison/Parr Highway correctional facilities from the Boyer Road/Carson City correctional facilities.
- Warden Kenneth A. Romanowski will be reassigned to the Mound Correctional Facility from the Gus Harrison/Parr Highway correctional facilities.
- Warden Nick J. Ludwick will be reassigned to the St. Louis/Mid-Michigan correctional facilities from the Charles E. Egeler Correctional Facility.
- Warden Jeffrey T. White will be reassigned to the Charles E. Egeler Correctional Facility.

These reassignments allow the Department to continue managing specific offender populations while providing the wardens new challenges that keep them fresh and motivated to do their best. Staff at the facilities should find the transition positive and valuable in the long-term. And while many employees are comfortable with their current warden, the change will allow those employees to gain new perspective and develop quality working relationships with their new facility administrator. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome your new warden when they arrive.

DEER / CAR DANGERS: AVOIDING COLLISIONS

According to the Michigan Association of Insurance, there were nearly 67,000 deer/car collisions in Michigan last year. Of those, over 26,000 were in the months of October, November, and December, with the most dangerous month being November. With that in mind, here are some defensive driving tips to avoid hitting a deer.



- Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
- Drive with caution when moving through deer-crossing zones, in areas known to have a large deer population and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland. Deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.

When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic.

The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.

- Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.
- Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, but stay in your lane. **Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.**
- Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in car/deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.
- If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal. A frightened and wounded deer can hurt you or further injure itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police.



PUMPKIN, from Page 1



Their giant pumpkin is just another in a line of accomplishments the greenhouse program has garnered. Over the past 11 years the program has helped numerous non-profit organizations raise funds, given vegetables to the local soup kitchens, provided flowers to beautify the Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Lenawee Sheriff's Department and worked with VoTech and VFW Chapter #1584 to plant a

floral flag at the Helicopter Memorial on North Main Street. In 2006, more than \$9,200 in flowers, vegetables and plants were donated by ATF. The 2007 pumpkin project is a new venture and was a very valuable learning experience for prisoners, staff and school children in the area.



"PUMPKIN PROJECT" BENEFITS LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Lakeland Correctional Facility's "Pumpkin Project" has become an annual program that benefits members of the local community. All proceeds from the sale of the pumpkins will be presented to the Naomi Davis Shelter House, a center for battered or abused women and their children in Coldwater. Pumpkins have also been donated to the Community Health Center and area elementary schools.

Dennis Birch, special activities coordinator, works closely with the project and commented, "The pumpkin project is a win-win situation. We are raising money for a very worthy cause and the prisoners who contribute their time and talent come away with a sense of community involvement and that good feeling of helping others."

The prisoners painted hundreds of pumpkins ranging in themes from cartoon characters, local school mascots, superheroes, college logos, nature scenes, and traditional Halloween images. Plastic pumpkins were also painted and sold. Currently over \$2,000 from 225 pumpkins has been raised for the Shelter House.





RIVERSIDE RUO RESCUES DROWNING BOY

Riverside Correctional Facility's RUO Leonard Brown and his friend Matt Austhof recently became heroes and life-savers in the eyes of five-year-old Steven Schnur and his family. The two men were at Stoney Lakeside Beach Park in Lowell Labor Day weekend when they were called to action. Five-year-old Steven Schnur was swimming inside an inner tube when he went under the water a few times. Then, his body went lifeless. His mother pulled him to shore; and that's when Brown and his friend provided life-saving measures.

Leonard and Matt put little Steven on his side and did stomach thrusts to get the water out of his system. Their quick thinking saved the boy. Steven's mom, Michelle Walker says she appreciates all the help she received.

"I thought he was gone; he was so purple and so limp and I was so frantic, I didn't know what they were doing," she said later. Most grateful though is little Steven, who wanted to tell Leonard and Matt, "Thank you so much for helping me."



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

By John C. Cordell

Since I have been given the tremendous opportunity to prepare (at least temporarily) **F.Y.I.**, I would like to reflect on the development of our newsletter. In the past two weeks, I have seen countless articles, tales, and recounts of the courageous and valuable people we have in our department. As the previous two stories support, the vast majority of our employees are out there every day making a difference. In fact, there isn't one human interest story in this edition where people didn't make a difference. That's the way it works in our department.

With that said, we are beginning a new fiscal year, the holidays are approaching, and we can take a minute to focus on what's important. I had a "State Values" piece ready to go for this section, but it would not have been worthy of the title "A Different Perspective," as we have had those values instilled in us for the past several years.

But I do want to discuss values, because those State values that are deemed important to our mission as a Department, and as a state, are reflected in all of the stories contained herein. Excellence, Inclusion, Integrity, and Teamwork. Four simple words; four VALUES – that are silently embraced by almost all of us who work for the MDOC. We choose to live those values not because they are the current catch words, or a leadership mandate. We live and embrace those values because they are meaningful to each of us; because we can't meet our mission without them. As we continue to operate in another tight budget year, with finite resources, challenge yourself and those around you to continue living the values important for personal and professional success.



HONOR GUARD TURNS 20

The Honor Guard is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Established in 1987 after the tragic death of corrections officer Josephine McCallum, the Honor Guard continues to serve the Department and the people of the state of Michigan at funeral services, special ceremonies, conferences, and other events throughout the United States and Canada. The unit is comprised of 30 members, the assistant commander, and the commander. Members come from work-sites in all areas of the state, and work as corrections officers, parole/probation officers, supervisors, managers, program coordinators and support staff.

Through tireless efforts of the members throughout the years, and the support of their supervisors, the Honor Guard continues to thrive and evolve. Recently, the unit started The Honor Guard Fund, a monetary fund that helps support unit operations and provides the unit with the opportunity to provide donations for fallen officer's families. One goal is to donate \$1,000 to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation in June of 2008. This fund helps support the survivors of correctional officers killed in the line of duty throughout the nation.

To recognize what so many have done to support the Honor Guard, all former members, current members and anyone who would like to support the Honor Guard is invited to a celebration at the Holiday Inn – West Lansing on December 7, 2007 from 6 pm to 11 pm. There will be a reception, buffet style dinner and short ceremony reflecting on the Honor Guard. Cost is \$35.00 per person. If you are interested, please contact John Cordell at cordeljc@michigan.gov or Lindsay Simmon simmonls@michigan.gov (517) 373-0287.

MDOC on Parade



PIG ROAST RAISES \$230 IN SUPPORT OF RELAY FOR LIFE



Officer Ted Olson of the St. Louis Correctional Facility organized a hog roast to raise funds for the Relay for Life, and donated his time to roast the hog, starting the cooking at 2 a.m. He spent the next 12 hours roasting the hog and ensuring staff were well fed.



Officer Jason Parsons and Sgt. Jill Levy provided assistance during the event. A total of \$230.00 was raised for Relay for Life.



BLOOD DRIVES SEEM TO FIT HALLOWEEN SEASON WELL



Several recent blood drives have helped stock the Red Cross with much needed blood supplies. Thumb Correctional Facility (TCF) has held a total of five blood drives during this past fiscal year. Employees are proud of having contributed 163 productive units of blood since October 2006. Since renewing their facility blood drives in December 2005, TCF has donated a total of 239 productive units of blood, saving an amazing 717 lives. Incentives, donated by local businesses and organizations, help entice employees to donate. TCF challenges all facilities to join them in establishing blood drives throughout the Department.

The Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility (MTU) holds American Red Cross Blood Drives every other month. Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility and Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility also participate. The goal for each blood drive is 34 units of blood. During the most recent drive, 34 productive pints of blood were donated, meeting the facility's goal. The next drive will be Wednesday November 28, 2007 at MTU.



FROMSON RETIRES AS DEPARTMENT'S "OMNI WAN KENOBI"

John Fromson started with the State of Michigan in 1976 in Huron County as a Probation/Parole Officer. In 1985 he was assigned to Clinton County continuing to serve the State as a Probation/Parole Agent. At the request of the Department in 1998, John assisted the department with the creation of a new software program known as the Offender Management Network Information (OMNI). His determination along with his high level of skill and abilities led to his promotion to Manager within the OMNI unit. His colleagues have honored him with several nicknames such as, "Mr. OMNI", "OMNI Wan Kenobi," "Mr. Fromni," and "Fromboli." John served 31 years with the Michigan Department of Corrections and his knowledge and extraordinary abilities have added immeasurable value to the Department during his tenure. He will be greatly missed.



Pictured from Left to Right: Deb Menninga, Pat Brubaker, Kim Koppsch-Woods, John Fromson, and Gary Stockman.

